

Section B: School Board Operations	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Descriptor Term: Public Forum	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		B-180	3/16
		Reviewed:	Revised:
		6/21	8/19

The Board of Education desires to hear from individuals and/or groups on matters important to education. As a normal practice, time is set aside at each Board meeting for Public Forum, during which individuals or groups may request to speak to the Board. Meetings may occur, on occasion, when the Chair deems it in the best interest of the district to not include Public Forum. A majority vote of members present can overrule the decision of the Chair.

As a rule, Public Forum at regular session voting Board meetings is open to any topic related to education, except for personnel matters which are handled according to Board Policy B-171. Public comment at work sessions, called meetings, and other special meetings will be limited to items on the agenda.

Individuals or groups seeking to address the Board during Public Forum should register by contacting the Board Secretary via telephone or e-mail no later than 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled meeting or by speaking with the Board Vice Chair in person prior to the start of the meeting. Information required for registration will include name, contact information, address, and topic. Groups seeking to address the Board may be asked to select one or more delegates to speak on their behalf unless determined otherwise by the Board.

Speakers may be granted time to speak when their topic of interest is addressed on the agenda, otherwise, Public Forum speakers will be recognized as indicated on the meeting agenda. The Chair may also recognize individuals who have not arranged to speak beforehand if the Chair determines that such is in the public interest. A majority vote of members present can overrule the decision of the Chair.

Recognition of individuals who are not Knox County residents is to be determined by a majority vote of the Board.

Public Forum speakers shall address remarks to the entire Board and not individual members. Each person speaking shall state his or her name and county of residence and have up to five (5) minutes to make remarks unless time is extended by a majority vote of the Board. Members of the Board and the Director of Schools may have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

The Board respects and appreciates the good intentions that bring citizens to speak at Public Forum. The Board asks that speakers show their respect for the Board, the staff and other citizens by speaking in a manner that is civil and courteous. The Chair or Vice Chair shall have the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who is disruptive, degrading and/or insulting or who does not adhere to Public Forum rules.

Individuals seeking additional information about Public Forum or any item on a meeting agenda shall direct inquiries to the office of the Board of Education or the Director of Schools.

Approved as to Legal Form
By the Knox County Law Director 7/17/2019
/Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director